

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/056 W

-----291957Z 023189 /44

R 282031Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

HQ USSOUTHCOM SCJ2

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY

SUBJ: DISSENSION IN ARMY

REF: MONTEVIDEO 1204 (DTG 251353Z MAR 77) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. CONFUSION STILL CHARACTERIZES CIRCUM-
STANCES SURROUNDING UPI STORY OF SEVERAL DAYS AGO CLAIMING
ARMY OFFICERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR HAVING SUBMITTED A
POLITICAL MEMORANDUM TO THEIR
SUPERIORS. AN ARMY
COMMUNIQUE, RELEASED MARCH 26, CRITICIZED AFP AND AP
FOR HAVING FILED STORIES ABOUT THE MEMORANDUM (AP, AT
LEAST, HAD NOT) BUT DID NOT MENTION UPI. AP REPORTEDLY
CONSIDERING LIBEL SUIT AGAINST ARMY. ADDING TO CONFUSED
PICTURE IS CONTINUING LACK OF EVIDENCE THAT THE ALLEGED
MEMORANDUM ACTUALLY EXISTS. THE EMBASSY HAS FOUND NO
CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE THE ORIGINAL UPI
RELEASE. END SUMMARY.

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2. THE MEDIA ON MARCH 27 CARRIED AN ARMY PRESS RELEASE
STATING THAT AFP AND AP STORIES ABOUT SOME 20 OFFICERS
HAVING BEEN DETAINED FOR HAVING SIGNED A POLITICAL DOCUMENT
WERE "TOTALLY FALSE". THE BRIEF COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED BY
SAYING THAT THE MOST REGRETTABLE ASPECT WAS THAT THIS

INFORMATION WAS SPREAD BY THE WIRE SERVICES AS THEY "DID

NOT KNOW HOW TO SELECT CORRESPONDENTS WHO WOULD BE LOYAL TO SAID AGENCIES BY SEEKING OUT TRUTHFUL INFORMATION".

3. INASMUCH AS WIRE SERVICE STORIES ARE SENT OUT OF URUGUAY FOR CONSUMPTION ABROAD, WE DO NOT KNOW EVERYTHING THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING. HOWEVER, THE ARMY WAS WRONG IN CRITICIZING AP (AND PERHAPS AFP) BECAUSE IT WAS UPI, NOT AP, WHICH HAD SENT OUT THE STORY ON ALLEGED DETENTIONS RESULTING FROM SOME OFFICERS HAVING SIGNED A DOCUMENT CALLING FOR A POLITICAL OPENING. AP'S BUREAU CZLEF IS DUE TO RETURN TO MONTEVIDEO ON MARCH 28 FROM BUENOS AIRES. AP TELLS US HE IS CONSIDERING A LIBEL SUIT AGAINST THE ARMY BECAUSE AP NEVER FILED THE TYPE OF STORY DESCRIBED IN THE ARMY'S COMMUNIQUE. AP HAD FILED A STORY ABOUT SOME 20 ARRESTS BUT IT CONCERNED OFFICERS INVOLVED IN A PROTECTION RACKET. ON THE OTHER HAND, UPI, WHICH DID FILE THE STORY ON THE ALLEGED POLITICAL MEMORANDUM, ESCAPED CRITICISM IN THE ARMY COMMUNIQUE.

4. WE CONTINUE TO URGE CAUTION IF THIS MATTER IS RAISED IN WASHINGTON. NOT ONLY IS THERE CONFUSION AS TO WHOM SUPPOSEDLY PRINTED WHAT BUT ALSO IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER A MEMORANDUM OF A POLITICAL NATURE EXISTS. SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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